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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
the AVENGERS
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CHURCHILL
STUCKER

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MIDGARD IS NOTHING MORE.*
NOTHING LESS.
THAN MUD.
* EARTH -- Eric the RED!
YET, EVEN HERE, IN WHAT I HATH GLEANED AS SOME ALTERNATE REALITY.*
-- WHERE THERE BE NO ALL-SEEING, ALL-KNOWING HIGH FATHER ODIN TO SPOIL MY WISHES.
AM I FORE'ER TO BE CONTENT AT SUFFERING THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF DEFEAT --
-- AT THE HANDS OF MY DUNDERHEADED HALF-BROTHER --
THE "MIGHTY" THOR
AND THOSE EQUALLY UNIMPRESSIVE "AVENGERS?!"

EVEN HERE THE FATES THEMSELVES DOTH CONSPIRE AGAINST ME.
* SINCE ISSUE #1 -- Eric the GOOD!
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LETTERS: RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT//AD
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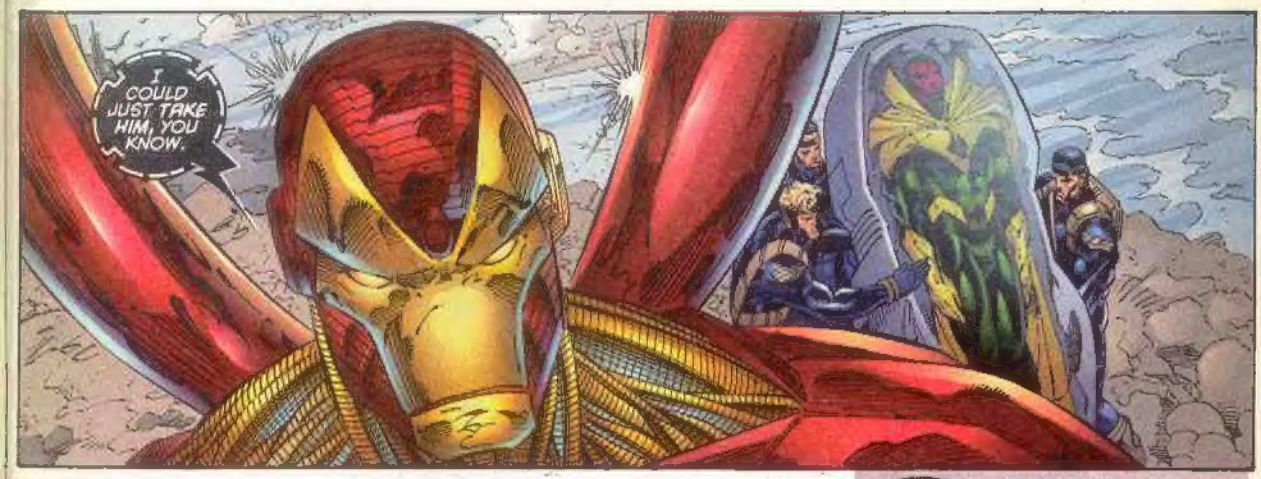
COLOR FX: DONALD SKINNER
EDITOR: ERIC STEPHENSON
HELP ME IF YOU CAN: BOB HARRAS
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
Stan Lee
IN
HELP!

FIE!
YOU RANG.
ENCHANTRESS. TELL ME ALL IS IN READINESS.
QUITE.
THEN... LET THE MISCHIEF BEGIN!

AVENGERS ISLAND.
OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT SINCE THE HULK TORE THROUGH HERE.*
* SEE F.F. #6, AVENGERS #4, IRON MAN #4, & CAP #4 -- Eric The Read.
THAT JUST ABOUT COMPLETES THE TRANSFERING OF ALL PERSONAL EFFECTS.
MISTER STARK WANTED ME TO ASSURE YOU HOW MUCH HE APPRECIATES YOUR COOPERATION, COLONEL FURY.
SWELL.
WRITE IF YA FIND WORK.
COMIN' FROM A TIN MAN, I FIND THAT HILARIOUS.
THE AVENGERS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
THEY JUST WON'T BE DOING IT AS YOUR TIN SOLDIERS.
ONLY ONE MATTER REMAINS.
WHERE IS THE VISION?
WE'RE KEEPING IT.
IT?!
THE VISION IS AN AVENGER.
AND WE AGREED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT ROSTER WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE --
-- THAT AIN'T HOW WE SEE IT, SHELLHEAD.
THE VISION WAS CREATED BY Dr. HENRY PYM WHILE HE WORKED FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.
SO, IT BEIN' A WORK FOR HIRE --
-- LIKE ANY O' THE OTHER WIDGETS THAT YER BOSS, TONY STARK, BUILT FER US OVER THE YEARS --
-- THE VISION IS STAYIN' PUT.


I COULD JUST TAKE HIM, YOU KNOW.

KLIK KLAK
KLAK KLIK
BUT, YA WON'T.
'CAUSE AS LONG AS IT STAYS OFF LINE --
-- AND WITH HANK PYM AMONG THE MISSIN' --
-- THE VISION'S JUST ANOTHER HUNK O' FURNITURE THAT BELONGS TO US.

THIS ISN'T OVER, FURY.
NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

NAH.
I'M BETTIN' IT AIN'T.

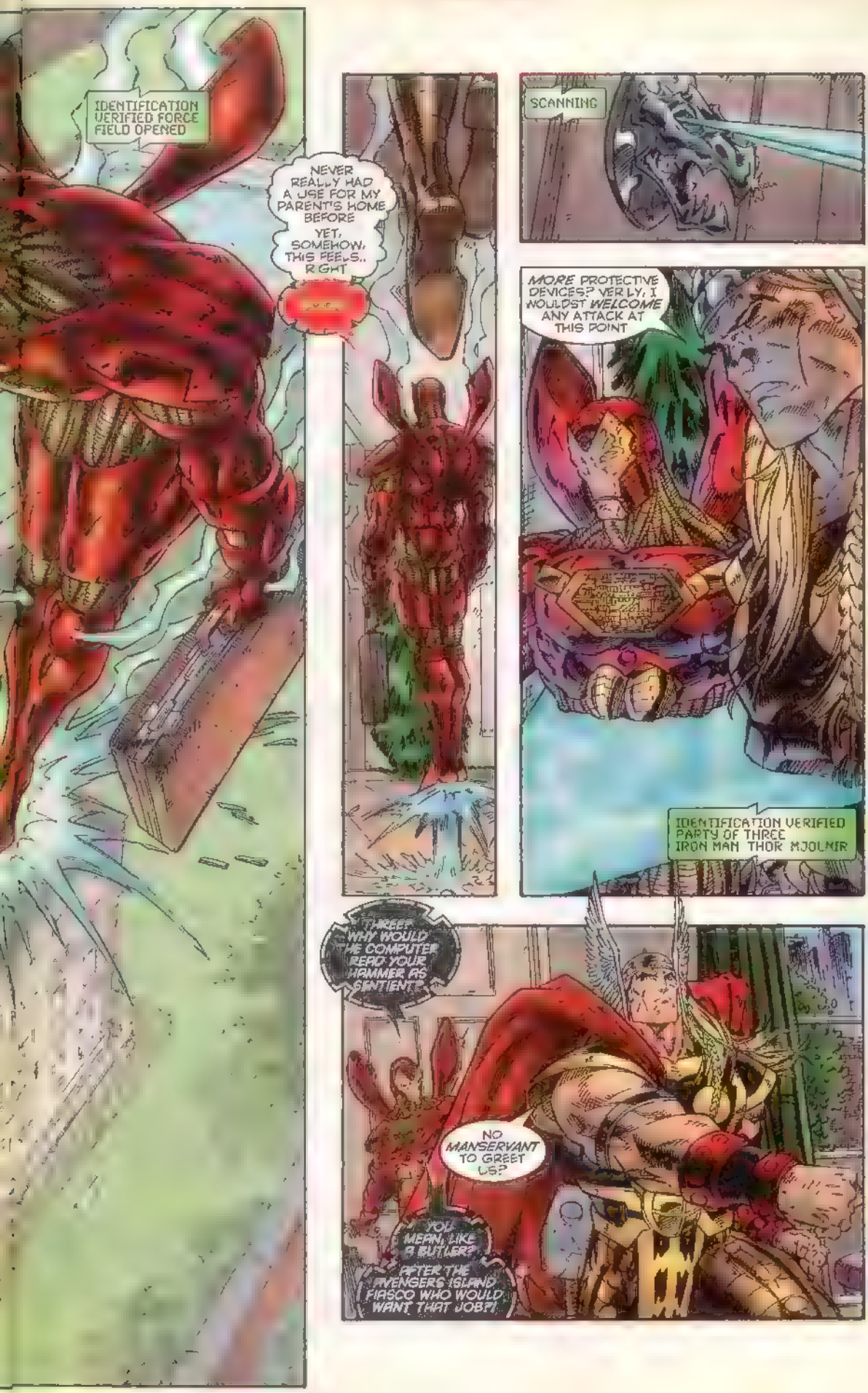
"LEAST TILL ONE OF US FINDS Dr. HENRY PYM."

AT THAT MOMENT.
INSIDE THE VISION.
Dr. HENRY PYM.
GANGWAY!
THAT'S IT, HANK, KEEP TALKING TO YOURSELF.
SINCE THE NULL FIELD INSIDE THE VISION KEEPS YOU FROM COMMUNICATING WITH ANYONE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
A.I.M.
WHO'S BRIGHT IDEA WAS THIS ANYWAY --
-- INHALING THE EXPERIMENTAL MICRON GAS --
-- LOWERING MYSELF INTO THE VISION TO SEE IF I COULD SOLVE THE RIDDLE AS TO WHY --
-- AFTER THE BATTLE WITH KANG, THE VISION CEASED FUNCTIONING --
-- ONLY TO BE TRAPPED INSIDE?!*
FACE IT, HANK.
YOU'VE GOT NOBODY TO BLAME BUT YOURSELF.
BONK
* SINCE AVENGERS #8 -- Eric the Tiny.

THE VISION MAY BE OFF-LINE, BUT HIS IMMUNE SYSTEM IS ON AUTO-PILOT.
"WALLS" AND "FLOORS" CONSTANTLY SHIFT DENSITY --
-- WHILE TECHNO ANTI-BODIES TRY TO RID THE SYSTEM OF A FOREIGN OBJECT.
I.E. "ME"!
SKREE
SKREE
BLAFT
WELL, ALL YOUR LIFE YOU WANTED TO BE A HERO --
-- INSTEAD OF ON THE SIDELINES.
TIME TO SEE IF YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT STUFF.
FLOOR DENSITY DISSIPATING.
HELP!
WHAM
...JAN...

"NEW YORK" CITY.
WHO AM I TRYIN' TO KID?
TONY STARK. CORPORATE RAIDER. "THE MAN WITHOUT A HEART."
TAKING OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN OPERATION S.H.I.E.L.D. COULDN'T GET A HANDLE ON.
IRON MAN!
YE WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF THE GOD OF THUNDER ON THIS FLIGHT.
WHAT..? Oh, THOR.
NOT EXACTLY USED TO HAVING COMPANY AT THIS ALTITUDE.
THERE BE FEWER TREASURES, ARMORED ONE, THAN HAVING THE CITIZENS BELOW GAZE UP IN IDYLLIC JOY.
I... SUPPOSE.
THERE THEY GO.
THE AVENGERS.
NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD.

AVENGERS MANSION
QUITE THE GIFT FROM THIS "ANTHONY STARK"
I THINK I WOULDST LIKE TO MEET THE SORT OF MAN WHO WOULDST GIVE UP HIS FATHER'S HOME TO A GROUP OF STRANGERS.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
TAKE A MOMENT FOR THE SECURITY SYSTEM TO RECOGNIZE OUR BIO-SIGNATURES.
THE ENTIRE COMPLEX HAS A SOLID AIR FORCE FIELD.

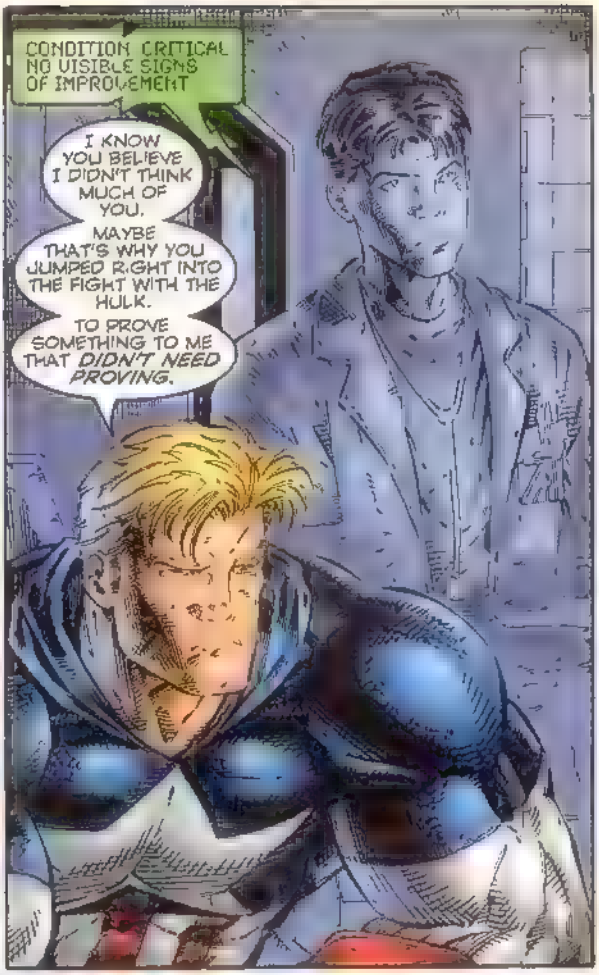

IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED FORCE FIELD OPENED
NEVER REALLY HAD A USE FOR MY PARENT'S HOME BEFORE
YET, SOMEHOW, THIS FEELS.. RIGHT
SCANNING
MORE PROTECTIVE DEVICES? VERILY, I WOULDST WELCOME ANY ATTACK AT THIS POINT
IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED PARTY OF THREE IRON MAN THOR MJOLNIR
THREE? WHY WOULD THE COMPUTER READ YOUR HAMMER AS SENTIENT?
NO MANSERVANT TO GREET US?
YOU MEAN, LIKE A BUTLER?
AFTER THE AVENGERS ISLAND FIASCO WHO WOULD WANT THAT JOB?!

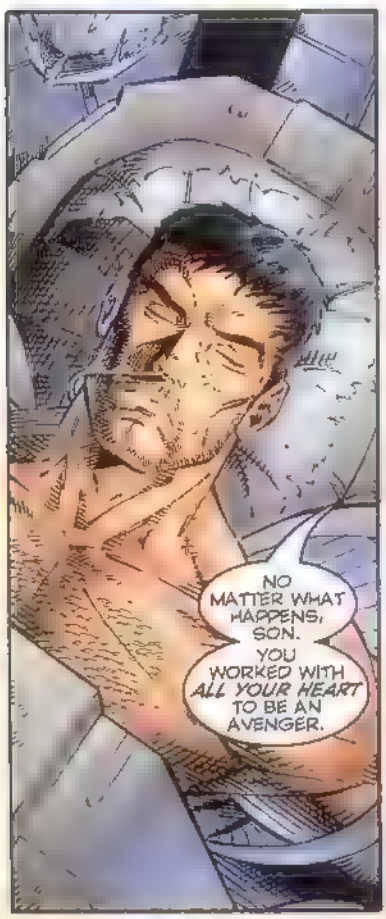
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS THE HOME OF AGATHA HARKNESS.
WHERE THE WOMAN HERSELF HAS BEEN TRAPPED WITHIN AN OAK TREE BY LOKI, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF.*
FLIT
C'MON, AGATHA, YOU'RE MAKING THIS TOO HARD. EVEN FOR ME.
I KNOW THAT LOKI TURNED YOU INTO A GIANT SCRATCHING POST -- BUT YOU GOTTA GET LOOSE.
WANDA NEEDS YOU.
HELP ME HERE!
BZZ-REK
MRROOOW
I AM SORRY, EBONY, OLD FRIEND.
BUT, ONLY BY POSSESSING YOU COULD I BE FREED.
NOW, THEN, TO YOUNG WANDA --
-- FOR WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO SPARE!
* SINCE ISSUE #4 -- Eric The Wood!

NIGHTIME, DOWN ARGENTINA WAY
LOOK, REAPER, WE'RE PRETTY FAR OFF THE MAP HERE
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO WA T FOR THE REST OF THE --
-- NO GUTS, NO GLORY, HAWKEYE YOU OUGHTA KNOW THAT BY NOW. IF WE F NO THE MAN, FURY WI.. HAVE TO RETHINK THIS WHOLE "AVENGERS" G G --
-- WITH YOU AND ME AS --
BZZATT
ARGH
BZZATT
BZZATT
BZZATT
LASERS.
BZZATT
THAT'S IT, REAP. WE'RE OUTTA HERE
MY ARM...

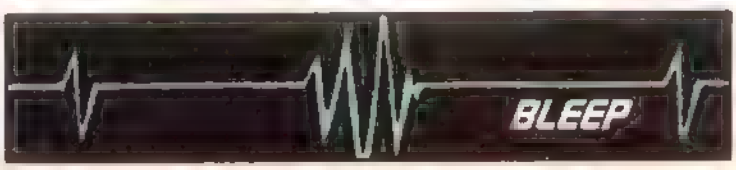
HAWK, I'LL ONLY SLOW YOU DOWN
NO DICE. YOU GOT ME INTO TH S. I'M GETTIN' YOU OUT.
LISTEN TO ME. GET TO FURY. TELL HIM THAT ZEMO IS STILL ALIVE.
TELL HIM YOURSELF. I'M NOT LEAVING YOU.
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE TO ME? ERIC, YOU'RE MY ONLY --
END HOLOGRAM DECK SEQUENCE
COMPUTER! WHO THE HECK TERMINATED THE PROGRAM?!
I DID.
WHO -- HEL..CAT?! I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, LADY BUTT OUT OF MY LIFE.
IT'S NOT THAT EASY, HAWKEYE. I WAS PART OF THAT FIRST MISSION TOO.
NOBODY HOLDS YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO REAPER.

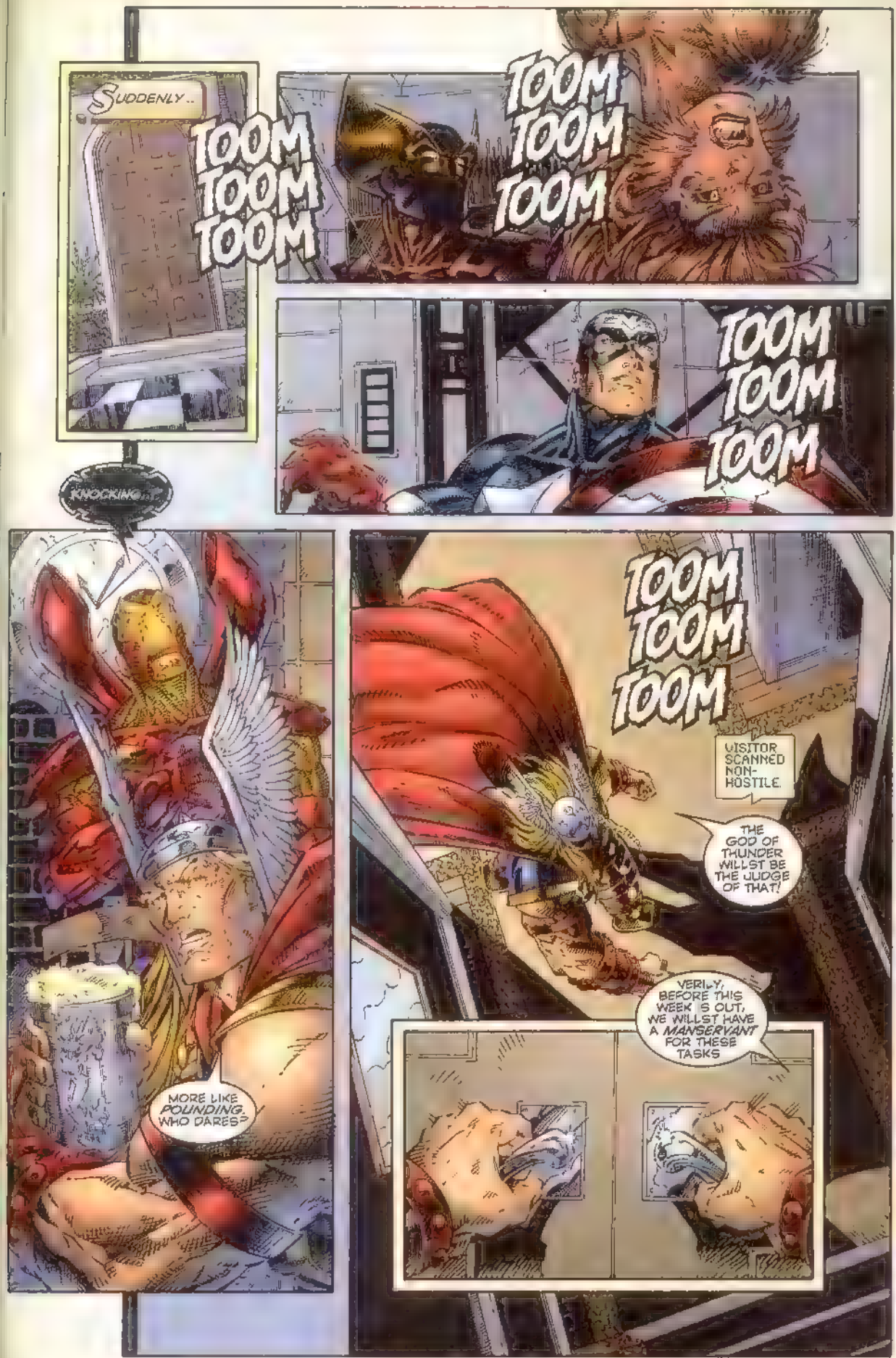
ELSEWHERE IN THE MANSION. THE MEDILAB.
I...I'VE BEEN AT A LOT OF SOLDIERS' BEDS DES, SWORDSMAN
YOU DON'T GET TO BE CALLED "CAPTAIN AMERICA" AND *NOT* SEE MEN FALL IN BATTLE.
DIAGNOSTIC RECHECK. SUBJECT SWORDSMAN. MASSIVE ARTERIAL AND BONE DAMAGE TO BOTH ARMS


CONDITION CRITICAL NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT
I KNOW YOU BELIEVE I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF YOU.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU JUMPED RIGHT INTO THE FIGHT WITH THE HULK.
TO PROVE SOMETHING TO ME THAT *DIDN'T NEED PROVING.*

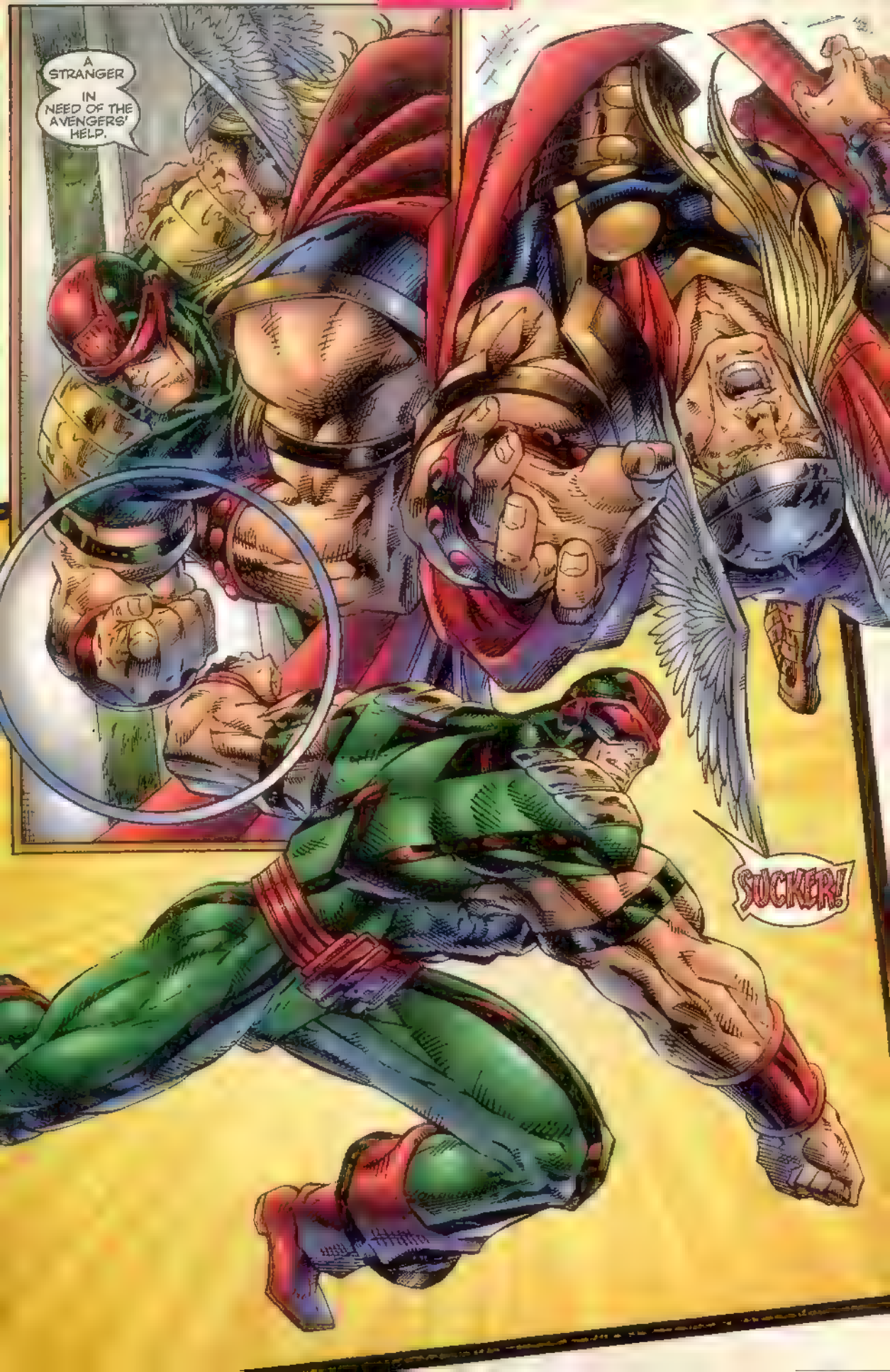

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SON.
YOU WORKED WITH *ALL YOUR HEART* TO BE AN AVENGER.

AND THAT ALONE MAKES YOU A *HERO* IN MY BOOK


BLEEP


SUDDENLY..
TOOM TOOM TOOM
TOOM TOOM TOOM
KNOCKING...
TOOM TOOM TOOM
MORE LIKE POUNDING. WHO DARES?
TOOM TOOM TOOM
VISITOR SCANNED NON-HOSTILE.
THE GOD OF THUNDER WILLST BE THE JUDGE OF THAT!
VERILY, BEFORE THIS WEEK 'S OUT, WE WILLST HAVE A MANSERVANT FOR THESE TASKS

...HELP..


A STRANGER IN NEED OF THE AVENGERS' HELP.
SUCKER!

KRASH

SMACH

SMAK

THOR IS DOWN.

ARE WE DEALING WITH *THE HULK* AGAIN?

O-KAY, SO IF IT *AIN'T* THE HULK, WHAT DO WE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT?

NEGATIVE. THE SECURITY SYSTEM WOULD HAVE IDENTIFIED THE HULK AS HOSTILE --

-- AND DENIED ACCESS.

BEHOLD,
LETHAL LEGION
MUCH, BOWMAN, MUCH.
Enchantress
WONDER MAN
EXECUTIONER

ULTRON V

COMPUTER!

DIAGNOSTIC CHECK.

WHY DIDN'T THE SYSTEM IDENTIFY INTRUDERS AS HOSTILE?

REPEAT: WHY?!

THAT WOULD BE MY DOING...

SCANNING.
IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED.
SUBJECT: NON-HOSTILE AVENGER.
SCARLET WITCH.

NEXT
MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR
STEP RIGHT THIS WAY...